

**Application for Appointment to First 5 SLO County
Children and Families Commission
Representative at Large, Community**

Date:	January 4, 2012
Name:	Mary Kern
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]
Business Phone:	[REDACTED]
Home Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Years in County:	53

The legislation that created the Children and Families Commission requires that members have expertise in areas related to early childhood development. Representatives at Large may be parents; recipients of project services included in the Commission's strategic plan; or educators specializing in early childhood development or involved with a child care resource and referral agency. They may also be representatives of a local child care coordinating group; a local organization for prevention or early intervention for families at risk; a community-based organization that has a goal of promoting and nurturing early childhood development; a local school district; or a local medical, pediatric, or obstetric agency, association or society.

First 5 Commissioners are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (FPPC Form 700) under the standards of the Fair Political Practice Commission. (More information can be found at the FPPC website.) They must also disqualify themselves from participating in decisions that may affect their personal financial interests. (See page three of this application for a conflict of interest checklist.)

Please explain why you would like to serve on the First 5 Children and Families Commission:

As contributing members of our county, we all need to be concerned with the welfare of our children. We must educate ourselves and act on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. I have spent all of my adult life learning about children and helping to support and educate them. In addition to owning and running a private Montessori school in San Luis Obispo for the last 28 years, I have also had the opportunity to teach adult students for Cal Poly State University and for the Montessori World Educational Institute. Together these opportunities and experiences have helped me to understand the vital importance of children's early years and the responsibilities we have to continue to learn about and value this important time of life. I would look forward to meeting with other individuals who share this life work and to contribute to the health and education of all the children of our community.

PLEASE NOTE: In lieu of answering the following questions, a résumé may be attached, if it provides the requested information.

List all work experience, training, or volunteer activities that qualify you to serve as a First 5 Children and Families Commission member:

Teacher and administrator of the Montessori Children's School -1983 to present, Edna 4-H Community Service leader -1999 to present, Cal Poly State University part-time instructor in Psychology and Human Development -1996 to present, Montessori teacher trainer - 1993 to present.

List advisory body positions or elected offices held:

Board member of the Montessori World Educational Institute- 1998 to present

Education:

San Luis Obispo High School - 1976
Associate Degree - Cuesta College - 1978
Bachelors Degree in Child Development - Cal Poly State University - 1980
Montessori Primary Diploma - Montessori World Educational Institute - 1981
Masters Degree in Education, early childhood emphasis- Univ. of California at Santa Barbara and Cal Poly State Univ- 1990

Application Deadline: January 11, 2012 at 5 PM. (Postmarks will not be accepted.)

Applications may be delivered or mailed to the First 5 office, or emailed to first5@first5slo.org

First 5 San Luis Obispo County
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